The entire population of Guinea is at risk of malaria. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 2,008,976 with 1,119 deaths.
Sustaining Essential Health Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is putting an incredible strain on health systems across Africa. Health systems are required to maintain routine health services for other illnesses even as they handle the additional burden. In order to prevent widespread morbidity and mortality, it is of vital importance that we work to sustain the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during this difficult time including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent health, Neglected tropical Diseases and malaria.

The country is encouraged to sustain the delivery of essential health services including malaria case management, coupled with the planned delivery of seasonal malaria chemoprevention, during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the whole of the continent learning lessons from your country’s experience during the Ebola outbreak. The country is congratulated for completing SMC. Without this sustained health system delivery, there will be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. Under the worst-case scenario, in which there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 6.2% increase in malaria cases, and a 30.9% increase in malaria deaths in Guinea. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

WHO estimates that there were an additional 47,000 malaria deaths globally in 2020 due to service disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to an estimated 7.5% increase in deaths.

It is essential to ensure the continuity of malaria, RMNCAH and NTD services in 2022 as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our continent. This may include the implementation of any necessary catch-up activities and ensuring timely planning to account for potential delays in procurement and delivery. Any intervention must ensure the safety of communities and health workers given the ease of transmission of COVID-19.

The country has been affected by the continent-wide restriction of access to COVID-19 vaccines and had only been able to cover 10% of their population by the end of 2021.

Malaria

Progress

Guinea has secured sufficient resources for the majority of the RDTs and LLINs required in 2021. The country has completed the national insecticide resistance monitoring and management plan, carried out insecticide resistance monitoring since 2015 and has reported the results to WHO. Guinea has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve universal operational coverage of the targeted at-risk population and has sufficient stocks of ACTs and RDTs.

In line with the legacy agenda of the ALMA chair, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, the country has significantly enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Control and Elimination Scorecard, although this scorecard is not yet shared on the ALMA Scorecard Hub. The country has also recently developed their NTD scorecard.
Impact
The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2020 was 2,008,976 with 1,119 deaths.

Key Challenge
- Sustaining the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child health, malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Previous Key Recommended Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Suggested completion timeframe</th>
<th>Progress</th>
<th>Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Ensure that malaria services including case management and vector control are sustained and implemented whilst using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td>All malaria interventions were implemented taking into account the necessary COVID-19 adaptations. The SMC campaign was completed as planned. The country has sufficient ACT and RDT stocks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress
Guinea has achieved high coverage of vitamin A.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Guinea is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, soil transmitted helminths and trachoma. In 2020, preventive chemotherapy coverage was 91% for trachoma, 87% for soil-transmitted helminths, 65% for onchocerciasis, 64% for lymphatic filariasis and 61% for schistosomiasis. Overall, the NTD preventive chemotherapy coverage index for Guinea in 2020 is 73, which represents a very substantial increase compared with the 2019 index value of 0.

The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the NTD scorecard.

Previous Key Recommended Actions

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMNCAH¹: Optimise quality of care</td>
<td>a) Address the falling coverage of skilled birth attendants</td>
<td>Q1 2021</td>
<td>No progress reported</td>
<td>Guinea is working to protect health workers at all levels and has developed a mitigation plan which is being implemented. There have been some reports of decreased attendance at health facilities due to COVID-19, and this has impacted treatment seeking in the capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Address the falling coverage of postnatal care</td>
<td>Q1 2021</td>
<td>No progress reported</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c) Ensure that essential RMNCAH services are sustained and implemented whilst using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. Address any stock-outs of essential RMNCAH commodities</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO
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<td>NTDs</td>
<td>Ensure that NTD interventions including Mass Drug Administration, vector control and Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention are sustained and implemented whilst using Covid-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic. This includes prioritising key necessary catch-up activities.</td>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>The country is conducting NTD control and elimination interventions whilst respecting COVID-19 preventive measures. The country managed to organize the MDA for Lymphatic Filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and trachoma in 2020. In 2021, the country conducted Schistosomiasis MDA and out of 4,176,000 tablets of Praziquantel expiring in November/December 2021, the country managed to distribute 95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guinea has responded on the recommended actions on low coverage of ARTs, with recent data indicating coverage of this intervention has increased.

**Key**

- Action achieved
- Some progress
- No progress
- Deliverable not yet due